

THE REMINISCENCES OF CARL SCHURZ

were captured by the enemy pressing after them. But, after all, the fact remains that in whatever shape the troops issued from the town, they were promptly reorganized, each was under the colors of his regiment, and in as good a fighting trim as before, save that their ranks were fearfully thinned by the enormous losses suffered during the day.

As we ascended Cemetery Hill from the town of Gettysburg we met General Hancock, whom General Meade had sent forward to take command of the field. The meeting of Generals Hancock and Howard is thus described by Major E. P. Halstead of the staff of the First Corps, who had been sent by General Doubleday to ask General Howard for reinforcements: "I returned to where General Howard sat, just as General Hancock approached at a swinging gallop. When near General Howard, who was then alone, he saluted, and with great animation, as if there was no time for ceremony, said General Meade had sent him forward to take command of the three Corps [the First, Eleventh, and his own, the Second]. General Howard replied that he was the senior. General Hancock said: 'I am aware of that, General, but I have written orders in my pocket from General Meade, which I will show you if you wish to see them/ General Howard said: *Nb; I do not doubt your word, General Hancock, but you can give no orders here while I am here/ Hancock replied: 'Very well, General Howard, I will second any order that

you have to
give, but General Meade has also directed me
to select a
field on which to fight this battle in rear of
Pipe Creek/
Then casting one glance from Gulp's Hill to
Round Top,
he continued: "But I think this the strongest
position by
nature upon which to fight a battle that I ever
saw, and if it
meets your approbation I will select this as the
battlefield/
General Howard responded: ° I think this a very
strong posi-

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